



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/759,804 | 01/12/2001 | Surajit Chaudhuri | 15-910 - 4254 | 2731 |
| 38991 | 7590 | 06/30/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| CHRISTENSEN, O'CONNOR, JOHNSON, KINDNESS, PLLC 1420 FIFTH AVENUE SUITE 2800 SEATTLE, WA 98101-2347 | | | FILIPCZYK, MARCIN R | |
| | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER | |
| | | | 2163 | |

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 09/759,804 | CHAUDHURI ET AL. |
| | Examiner Marc R. Filipczyk | Art Unit 2163 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 June 2006.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 49-54 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 49-54 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 12 January 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to Applicant's RCE request and amendment filed on June 15, 2006.

To expedite the process of examination Examiner requests that all future correspondences in regard to overcoming prior art rejections or other issues (e.g. amendments, 35 U.S.C. 112, objections and the like) set forth by the Examiner that Applicants provide and link to the most specific page and line numbers of the disclosure where the best support is found (see 35 U.S.C. 132).

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 15, 2006 has been entered.

Claims 49-54 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 49-51 and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as best as the Examiner is able to ascertain as being anticipated by Osborn et al (U.S. Patent No 6,026,391).

Regarding claims 49-51 and 53, Osborn discloses a method and medium for estimating result of a current database query, comprising: (title)

collecting information related to past queries against a database (col. 6, line 44-50);

(Note: results of past queries are obtained from a database after execution of the database)

examining the collected information to determine an access frequency for each tuple accessed during the one or more past queries [particular table and columns accessed] (col. 6, lines 51-54, 59 and 65-67);

(Note: when a query is submitted only once the tuple in the database may only be accessed once)

determining sample weight based on the access frequency of the tuples (col. 7, lines 17-23);

(Note: statistics cache 48 includes number of times particular table and columns were accessed)

selecting a sample of tuples from the database based on weights of the tuples; (fig. 2, items 45, 46 and 48); and

(Note: the time, date and exact records, i.e., particular table and column access is stored in cache 48, lines 6, lines 51-68)

executing a query against the sample to determine an approximate answer to the query made against the database [compare result set with past queries] (fig. 2 and 4, item 46, 54 and 80

and col. 7, lines 7-10). In addition, Osborn teaches using a probability [estimates] (col. 6, lines 23-30).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 52 and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as best as the Examiner is able to ascertain as being unpatentable over Osborn et al (U.S. Patent No 6,026,391) in view of Acharya et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,519,604).

Regarding claims 52 and 54, Osborn discloses all of the subject matter as discussed above with respect to claims 49 and 53 including sampling but does not expressly teach computing an inverse of probabilities. However, Acharya discloses an approximating querying method for databases with multiple grouping attributes (see title, Acharya) and teaches calculating aggregates (fig. 6, Acharya) for each sampled tuple (*Grouping Columns*) and multiplies each value by an inverse of the probability with which corresponding tuples were sampled (col. 12, lines 13-23, Acharya).

Hence, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to calculate aggregates in Osborn system as done in Acharya method by expanding upon Osborn's potential execution plan that is based on workload storage of

characteristics for the respective tables, clusters and indexes to be used (col. 6, lines 27-29, Osborn) to further calculate by using inverse of probabilities and keep track of all the aggregates (attributes and characteristics) of the desired tuples (records) to more precisely process sampled queries and maximize efficiency of the performed search.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments and amendment filed on June 15, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The arguments and responses are listed below.

Applicant argues on pages 9-14 of the 6/15/06 response that Osborn does not teach determining a "weight".

In response to Applicant's argument, Examiner disagrees. Osborn teaches recorded query history 50 is loaded into statistics cache for comparisons, see col. 6 line 51 to col. 7, line 16. It is clear to one of skill in the art that the preferred data from the history is used, depending on user application whether the user is concerned about the cost, length or efficiency of executing a query, equivalent to ranking or weighting the preferred searchable data. In addition, Examiner notes that Applicants claim only one past query, and executing one past query would result in all the tuples having an equivalent weight of one. Applicants arguments are believed moot in view of the above statements.

With respect to all the pending claims 49-54, Examiner respectfully traverses Applicant's assertion based on the discussion and rejection cited above.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc R. Filipczyk whose telephone number is (571) 272-4019. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571-272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MF
June 23, 2006


TIM VO
PRIMARY EXAMINER